



HORNS OF A DILEMMA . . . And the sounds come from sax man Jim and the Unpredictables while the vocals came from Jo, on the right, appearing nightly Wednesday thru Saturday at The Zebra Room on Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance.

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

Wet Spot in the Desert

This is a truly wet spot . . . in more ways than one when you stop to take into consideration the olympic-size swimming pool they feature at the Palm Springs Biltmore Hotel and Golf Course plus that swingin' bar just off the main lobby.

But to get back to the golf course for a minute—it's not a big thing at all—in fact it's a nine-holer, but baby . . . tricky! For duffers like "you know who" those palm trees sprinkled liberally throughout the course are a real hazard—or hazards. But the longest shot is about 235 yards, or thereabouts and you can have a ball for an hour or so and not have to carry much more than a putter, a two iron and maybe a seven. Lots of fun! But don't misunderstand! This little job is a challenge!

Now at this particular time of year, you must realize it's sort of off season but it's still a delightful oasis in the desert. You're not left wanting for any of the goodies of this life.

Like, for example, the menu remains constant, at least for dinners, which are par excellence!

You'll go far to top the dinner cuisine at the Biltmore Hotel where the word is rapidly getting around about their "gourmet dinners." Last Saturday late-afternoon, maitre'd Bill Kreisgman was outlining some of the special-cials for which they're called upon to present and they're really something.

Through the combined efforts of Bill and Chef de Cuisine Art Stonoff they manage to come up with such way-out requests as "a 45-pound lobster" to satisfy the longings of the inner men of 10 people. And they did it! But you think that's something? Next week they've got a request for a 90 pounder . . . and what'll you bet, they produce!?!?

At a mere 24-hour notice the culinary artists of the Palm Springs Biltmore will present just about any type of roast with all the trimmings and served "just like you get at home." (Well, we don't know about your home!) All neatly sliced and prepared right at your table.

All the foregoing, of course in addition to the regular menu which involves fresh, live Maine lobster, Monterey abalone steak, Linguine, all the veal dishes like parmigiana, scaloppini and a la Francaise, and all, you must know, at the popular of popular prices. That's to mean, popular to your pocketbook! And of course you have a wide choice from the broiler in the steak department.

So you combine all this with the sparkling service and equally sparkling libations you received from day barman Pete Starr and nite barman Rocky James you know you've had a well rounded repast at the Biltmore Hotel and Golf Course, the latter over-seen by such stalwarts as "Lee" and "Chuck," golf pros extraordinaire.

Then in the later evening you are regaled by Marco and Tosti (Don's an old friend we've known for years, going away back to Zardi's in Hollywood!) for your dancing and give-a-listen-to pleasure.

From the first moment you drive into this quieting desert spot, all the efficient

staff members go out of their way to make you feel welcome and comfortable, from Richard and Robert Levin, Biltmore owner-operators, all the way thru desk-man Ernest Dick who is familiarly referred to as just plain "Shorty," a very nice guy!

And then rounding out the crew for your dining, dancing and quaffing enjoyment, you've got such nicies as the bit of the auld sod, "Shannon" with the bangs and "Annetta" who is otherwise thought of as the working girl's Angela Lansbury.

So-o-o-o . . . like next time you're crawling across the desert in search of some oasis or other, keep in mind the Palm Spring Biltmore Hotel. 'Sagas!

Well now, it's time once again for that dynamic Kitten of the Keyboard to get a line or two from this department and you know very well who she is! Ruthie Thomas—that's who she is! And dynamic covers this chick only about half way!

Whoah! Of course it's not a topless spot—and would you like to make a small bet that she can't be topped from an entertainment angle?! Well take it from the old spot checker . . . she can't be!

Just ask Nick (here we go again with that name!) Cicciarelli, owner-hong of The Jet Room Lounge on La Cienega at Centinela where "Groovie Roothie" turns 'em on every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nite. She's a gal that never "loses her cool" OR her crowd!!

And come to think of it, there's to be an anniversary whing-ding at the Jet Room coming up here the first

part of August so you don't want to miss it. Make a mark!

There are some Vegas happenings, y'know. Like down at the Riviera Hotel for instance, it's still Phyllis Diller in the Versailles Room along with Warde Donovan and the team of Vincent & Patrice. This group runs here through July 8 when Ed Ames takes over through August 5.

Then over in the Starlite Theatre beginning this week it's Jan Murray, The Mob and Chico Holiday. This booking hangs tough through July 30 during which the only significant change'll be Morgana King replacing The Mob. Okay for The Riviera?

And along the Strip a ways at the Hotel Tropicana the celebrated Dukes of Dixieland are currently appearing in the Blue Room and will remain through the 12.

This outfit includes leader, trumpeter and vocalist, Frank Assento along with a whole bunch of other jazz stars, like clarinetist Jerry Fuller, Charlie Bornemann on trombone, Bill Jones at the piano, Rudy Aikels is on bass and holding down the drums it's Santo Savino, all top recording artists in the world of jazz. And who comes to the Blue Room July 12 through 25? Louis Armstrong, that's who.

Of course the always popular and omnipresent Folies Bergere is still in the theatre restaurant, rapidly approaching their 5 million mark. And that's quite a mark you must admit.

The rest of the happen-



THE OLD MASTER . . . He's Rob Cohn, genial mixologist and manager at Sam's Cafe No. 1 of Torrance. Bob recently came in only third in the annual mix-masters contest at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The name of his drink? "Sam's No. 1," naturally!

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FEEDING TIME . . . Current motion picture showing at Torrance United Artists Theatre is "Planet of the Apes" starring Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Kim Hunter, Maurice Evans, James Whitmore, James Daly, and Linda Harris, to name a few of the stars in this stunning and exciting new science fiction film.

ings up there you'll have to ferret out for yourself but there's two spots to get you there. Bring money!

As is his habit every year, Bill Fremont is again extending his accommodation for Southlanders who plan an European trip this summer and specifically to Spain.

Owner-host of The Matador Restaurant in West Los Angeles has prepared an extensive list of recommended restaurants in Spain and anyone wishing a copy of this list is welcome to drop by The Matador at any time and pick up same free of charge.

This list includes names of the restaurants, the cities in which they're located and lots of comments on the food as well as the prices. Better get one of these if you're planning a trip this summer.

St. Louis is well represented coming up here next week, July 12, 13 and 14, when that sensational country and western star bows into Shipwreck Joey's at the corner of Figueroa and "B" St. in Wilmington.

He's Billy Christian who's scheduled for the three-day stand along with Bill Obbard's Rhythm Masters and Johnny Gilman's Nashville Rebels.

Should be a swingin' three day bash to get in on the fun. There's no admission charge and for two bits you get all the spaghetti you can eat, plus a tossed green salad and garlic bread. Is this any way to run a restaurant? You bet it is!

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